

Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 091638Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3534

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LONDON 10703

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

DEPARTMENT PASS INFO CINCUSNAVEUR AND USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1TZDQ QDUX AEMR, UK, LE

SUBJ: FCO CONCERN OVER DETERIORATING SECURITY IN LEBANON

1. WHEELER, ACTING HEAD OF FCO NEAR EAST DEPARTMENT, INFORMED EMBOFF JULY 9 THAT BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY WORRIED OVER THE SECURITY OF THE FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN BEIRUT. BRITISH SEE PALESTINIANS IN AN INCREASINGLY DESPERATE SITUATION AS THEY ARE SQUEEZED INTO WESTERN BEIRUT. BRITISH THINK ARAFAT'S APPEAL TO EGYPTIANS INDICATES PLO EXPECTS THAT SYRIANS, UNDETERRED BY ARAB LEAGUE, MAY ATTACK PLO IN FORCE IN BEIRUT, SIDON AND TRIPOLI, AND ATTEMPT TO REDUCE PLO TO A MINOR CONTROL LABLE SATELLITE. HABBASH AND HARD-LINE FACTION WOULD FIGHT TO THE LAST. OUTLOOK IS BLACK WITH NO PROSPECT FOR NEGOTIATIONS. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THERE ARE OBVIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SAFETY OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND FCO IS INSTRUCTING BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO CHECK WITH DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO SEE WHAT OUR VIEWS ARE ON A FURTHER CUT-BACK OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL OR EVEN COMPLETE EVACUATION OF EMBASSIES.

2. EMBOFF SAID HE HAD SEEN NO, REPEAT NO, TRAFFIC FROM AMBASSADOR SEELYE INDICATING LATTER CONTEMPLATING FULL EVACUATION.

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3. SEE ALSO BRITISH JIC ASSESSMENT OF JULY 9.

SPIERS

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